a buoy for supporting the satellite communications module above water; and

transmission means for transmitting a signal from the magnetic pig position detector from subsea to the satellite communications module.

**7**. The pipeline monitoring system as defined in claim **1**, further comprising:

a CPR sensor for sensing one or more of CPR current, CPR voltage, and CPR meter reading and outputting a CPR signal to the satellite communications module.

**8**. The pipeline monitoring system as defined in claim **1**, further comprising:

a valve actuator responsive to the satellite communications module for controlling operation of a valve.

**9**. The pipeline monitoring system as defined in claim **1**, further comprising:

a valve position sensor for outputting a valve position signal to the satellite communications module.

**10**. The pipeline monitoring system as defined in claim **1**, further comprising:

at least one of a pressure sensor and a temperature sensor for outputting a pressure signal and a temperature signal, respectively, to the satellite communications module.

**11**. The pipeline monitoring system as defined in claim **1**, further comprising:

a flow meter sensor for outputting a fluid flow rate signal to the satellite communications module indicative of fluid flow rate through the pipeline.

**12**. The pipeline monitoring system as defined in claim **1**, further comprising:

an input/output module for outputting an activity signal to operate the monitoring station in response to the magnetic pig position detector.

**13**. The pipeline monitoring system as defined in claim **12**, further comprising:

a digital to analog converter for providing signals to the input/output module; and

an analog to digital converter for outputting signals from the input/output module to the satellite communications module.

**14**. The pipeline monitoring system as defined in claim **12**, further comprising:

a digital to analog converter for providing signals to the input/output module; and

an analog to digital converter for outputting signals from the input/output module to the satellite communications module.

**15**. A pipeline monitoring system, comprising:

a plurality of monitoring stations positioned along a pipeline;

a central monitoring facility for generating command signals to operate each of the plurality of monitoring stations;

a satellite communications module at each of the plurality of monitoring stations for interfacing with the central monitoring facility;

a pipeline marker for housing the satellite communications module; and

a pipeline damage detector for outputting a potential pipeline damage signal to the satellite communications module.

**16**. The pipeline monitoring system as defined in claim **15**, wherein the central monitoring facility includes a control station to output command signals to the plurality of monitoring stations.

**17**. The pipeline monitoring system as defined in claim **15**, further comprising:

an input/output module for outputting an activity signal to operate the monitoring station in response to the magnetic pig position detector.

**18**. The pipeline monitoring system as defined in claim **15**, wherein the pipeline damage detector includes a pipeline vibration sensor.

**19**. The pipeline monitoring system as defined in claim **15**, wherein the pipeline damage detector includes a geophone.

**20**. A method of monitoring a pipeline having a plurality of monitoring stations, comprising:

passing a magnetic pig through the pipeline;

detecting the passage of a magnetic pig at each of a plurality of monitoring stations;

providing a satellite communications module at each of the plurality of monitoring stations for communicating with a central monitoring facility;

outputting a signal from the satellite communications module to the central monitoring facility in response to the passage of the magnetic pig; and

generating command signals at the central monitoring facility and forwarding the command signals to the satellite communications module to operate each of the plurality of monitoring stations;

detecting potential pipeline damage and outputting a pipeline damage signal to the satellite communications module in response thereto; and

actuating a valve in response to the detection of the passage of the magnetic pig.

**21**. The method as defined in claim **20**, further comprising:

each monitoring station transmitting data collected at the monitoring station to the central monitoring facility in response to a command signal.

**22**. The method as defined in claim **20**, further comprising:

providing a station identification and event time to the central monitoring facility when the magnetic pig is detected;

determining the speed of the magnetic pig moving through the pipeline; and

estimating the time of arrival of the magnetic pig at another monitoring station.

**23**. The method as defined in claim **20**, further comprising:

detecting pipe/soil potentials and outputting a voltage signal to the satellite communications module in response thereto.

**24**. The method as defined in claim **20**, further comprising:

providing an input/output module for outputting an activity signal to operate the monitoring station in response to the passage of the magnetic pig.

**25**. A pipeline monitoring system, comprising:

a plurality of monitoring stations positioned along a pipeline;

a central monitoring facility for generating command signals to operate each of the plurality of monitoring stations;

a satellite communications module at each of the plurality of monitoring stations for interfacing with the central monitoring facility; and

upwardly extending generally tubular pipeline marker for housing the satellite communications module.